CLAIMS

I claim:

1.   A composite fabric, comprising an arrangement of fibers and composite yarns wherein the composite yarns each comprise an elastomeric core and an elastomeric thermoplastic sheath disposed about the core wherein the melting point temperature of the sheath is at least about 10°C lower than the melting point temperature of the core, and wherein the fibers are anchored in the sheath of the composite yarns.

2.   The composite fabric of claim 1 wherein the fabric comprises ground warp yarns, filling yarns and pile.

3.   The composite fabric of claim 2 wherein the ground warp yarns comprise composite yarns.

4.   The composite fabric of claim 2 wherein the filling yarns comprise composite yarns.

5.   The composite fabric of claim 2 wherein the ground warp yarns and the filling yarns comprise composite yarns.

6.   The composite fabric of claim 2 wherein the pile comprises conventional yarns.

7.   The composite fabric of claim 2 wherein the ground warp yarns consist essentially of composite yarns.

8.   The composite fabric of claim 2 wherein the filling

yarns consist essentially of composite yarns.

9.   The composite fabric of claim 2 wherein the ground warp

5   yarns and the filling yarns consist essentially of composite

yarns.

10. The composite fabric of claim 6 wherein the

conventional yarns are interlaced with respect to the ground warp

10 yarns or filling yarns or both in a "V" or "W" configuration

wherein the conventional yarns are wrapped around either one or

three composite yarns of the ground warp yarns or the filling

yarns or both.

11. A composite pile fabric, comprising an arrangement of

15 composite yarns as ground warp yarns and filling yarns and

conventional yarns as pile wherein the composite yarns each

comprise an elastomeric core and an elastomeric thermoplastic

sheath disposed about the core wherein the melting point

20 temperature of the sheath is at least about 50°C to about 75°C

lower than the melting point temperature of the core, and wherein

the conventional yarns are anchored in the sheath of the

composite yarns.

25   12. A method of making a composite fabric comprising the

steps of:

forming an arrangement of fibers and composite yarns wherein
the composite yarns comprise an elastomeric core and an
elastomeric thermoplastic sheath disposed about the core wherein
the melting point temperature of the sheath is at least about

5   10°C lower than the melting point temperature of the core;

heating the arrangement of fibers and composite yarns to a
temperature above that of the melting point temperature of the
sheath of the composite yarns but below that of the melting point
temperature of the core of the composite yarns; and

10   cooling the composite fabric.

13.   The method of claim 12 wherein the melting point
temperature of the sheath is at least about 50°C to about 75°C
lower than the melting point temperature of the core.

15   14.   The method of claim 12 wherein the forming step
comprises weaving.

15.   The method of claim 12 wherein the forming step
20   comprises pile weaving whereby ground warp yarns and filling
yarns comprising the composite yarns are interlaced with a pile
of conventional fibers.

16.   The method of claim 15 wherein the pile is interlaced
25   in a "V" or "W" configuration so the pile are wrapped around

either one or three composite yarns of the ground warp yarns or

the filling yarns or both.

17. A method of making a composite pile fabric comprising

5   the steps of:

forming an arrangement of composite yarns as ground warp

yarns and filling yarns and conventional yarns as pile wherein

the composite yarns each comprise an elastomeric core and an

elastomeric thermoplastic sheath disposed about the core wherein

10 the melting point temperature of the sheath is at least about

50°C to about 75°C lower than the melting point temperature of

the core;

heating the arrangement of fibers and composite yarns to a

temperature above that of the melting point temperature of the

15 sheath of the composite yarns but below that of the melting point

temperature of the core of the composite yarns; and

cooling the composite fabric.